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Preparatory Committee for the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East

Report submitted by the Islamic Republic of Iran

In order to promote the idea of the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the important region of the Middle East and the realization of the goals and objectives of the resolution on the Middle East adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, which were supported by the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty and generally referred to in article VII of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Islamic Republic of Iran reports the following:

1. The Islamic Republic of Iran first initiated the idea of the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone as an important disarmament measure in the region of the Middle East in 1974, which was followed by the resolution of the General Assembly. Since 1980, the Assembly has annually adopted, by consensus, a resolution on this issue. Continuous adoption of such a resolution by the Assembly is a manifestation of the global support for the promotion of peace, security and stability in the Middle East through the realization of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region.

Israeli nuclear-weapon programme: the main obstacle to a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region

2. As a State party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Islamic Republic of Iran is fully committed to its international undertakings and believes that this international instrument is the cornerstone of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. Universal adherence to this Treaty, in particular in the region of the Middle East, would effectively ensure the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region. Currently, the Zionist regime is the only non-party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons in the region. Despite repeated calls by the international community, as demonstrated in the resolution on the Middle East adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference, and related

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resolutions of the General Assembly as well as of those of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the Zionist regime, confident of the political and military support of the United States of America, has neither acceded to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, nor placed its unwarranted nuclear facilities under the IAEA full-scope safeguards. It has not even declared its intention to accede to the Treaty. This regime's nuclear-weapon activities, supported by the United States, seriously threaten both regional and international peace and security and endanger the non-proliferation regime.

3. The 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons reaffirmed the importance of the resolution on the Middle East adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference. Owing to the significant provisions of that resolution, the Islamic Republic of Iran and other States in the region duly consider that the resolution should be swiftly implemented, especially by its sponsors, namely, the Russian Federation, the United States of America and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

4. The 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons reaffirmed "the importance of Israel's accession to the Non-Proliferation Treaty and the placement of all its nuclear facilities under comprehensive International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards, in realizing the goal of universal adherence to the Treaty in the Middle East". Unconditional adherence by the Zionist regime to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and conclusion of a full-scope safeguards agreement with IAEA would undoubtedly lead to the early realization of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. Neglecting the commitments by States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, as enshrined in this important resolution, can only embolden that regime to continue to remain a source of threats and instability in the Middle East by flouting the aspirations of the international community and remaining outside the fold of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the full-scope safeguards regime. In this context, we believe that national reports that do not address the negative implications of the Zionist regime's intransigence with respect to joining the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons are not as effective as they ought to be with regard to the resolution on the Middle East adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference.

5. The Islamic Republic of Iran, in implementing its obligations under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and specifically articles II and III of the Treaty, reaffirms that all its nuclear facilities are devoted to peaceful purposes and are under the full-scope safeguards of IAEA. Furthermore, contributing to the realization of a world free from weapons of mass destruction, particularly in the Middle East, the Islamic Republic of Iran has signed the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and ratified the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction and the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction, as well as the 1925 Geneva Protocol. The high record of accession of the Islamic Republic of Iran, among the Middle East countries, to the non-proliferation and disarmament instruments is not only a clear manifestation of our firm commitment to the cause of disarmament and non-proliferation, but is also evidence of our

dedicated efforts towards achieving the noble goal of the realization of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East.

6. The Islamic Republic of Iran, in its bilateral and multilateral dialogues with other States parties to the Treaty, has always urged their active contribution towards the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East.

7. The Islamic Republic of Iran is of the firm belief that an agreed plan of action and timetable for the universality of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, especially in the Middle East, should be a top priority in the agenda of all parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, in particular nuclear-weapon States. There should be greater pressure exerted on the Zionist regime to accede to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons promptly and without conditions and to place all of its nuclear facilities under the IAEA full-scope safeguards so as to pave the way towards achieving the long-sought goal of the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East.

8. Unfortunately, the policy of inaction imposed upon the Security Council over the past several decades in respect of addressing the well-documented nuclear-weapon programme implemented by the Zionist regime has provided this regime with the audacity to explicitly acknowledge possession of nuclear weapons, as was divulged by its Prime Minister in an interview with German television on 12 December 2006, in disregard of the idea of the long-sought establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. Moreover, this regime's development and possession of nuclear weapons not only violate basic principles of international law, the Charter of the United Nations and the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, as well as numerous resolutions of the General Assembly, the Security Council and the IAEA General Conference, but also clearly defy the demands and concerns of the overwhelming majority of States Members of the United Nations and constitute a constant and obstinate disregard of the international community, which has, time and again, called on this regime to renounce nuclear weapons and accede to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. Over and above this, the Non-Aligned Movement in New York, in its statement dated 5 February 2007, expressed its great concern over the acquisition of nuclear capability by the Zionist regime, which poses a serious and continuing threat to the security of neighbouring and other States, and condemned that regime for its action and its statement in that regard, and for continuing to develop and stockpile nuclear arsenals.

9. The brutal attacks by the Israeli regime on its neighbour based on absurd excuses, the killing of civilians, including women and children in Gaza, with prohibited and devastating weapons, and the defying of any call by the international community to stop the shedding of the blood of innocent people, all demonstrate to what degree the threat of such an aggressive regime is a serious one. Needless to say how much endangerment of regional as well as international peace and security nuclear weapons in the hands of such a regime could lead to.

10. The Security Council should fulfil its Charter of the United Nations-based responsibility to address such a clear and serious threat to international peace and security and take prompt and appropriate actions accordingly. The Zionist regime is the only obstacle to the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. Peace and stability cannot be achieved in the Middle East while the massive nuclear arsenal of this regime continues to threaten the region and beyond.

11. The Islamic Republic of Iran is of the opinion that, pending the realization of the nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region, no country of the region must acquire nuclear weapons or permit the stationing of nuclear weapons or nuclear explosive devices on its territory or under its jurisdiction or control. Countries should refrain from actions that run counter to both the letter and the spirit of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and other international resolutions and documents relating to the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East.

12. The Islamic Republic of Iran believes that the Review Conferences of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons have a significant role to play in the realization of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. The 2010 Review Conference should establish a subsidiary body under Main Committee II to consider this issue and make concrete recommendations on urgent and practical steps for the implementation of the resolution on the Middle East adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference, as well as the relevant agreements contained in the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference. The Review Conference should also make recommendations on measures required to force the Zionist regime to accede to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and place its unwarranted nuclear facilities under the full-scope IAEA safeguards so as to pave the way for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East region.

13. Owing to the importance of the Middle East region and in order to strengthen the realization of the resolution on the Middle East adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference on the Parties to the Treaty as well as the agreements contained in the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference and article VII of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Islamic Republic of Iran is of the view that all States Parties to the Treaty, particularly the nuclear-weapon States, as sponsors of the 1995 Middle East resolution, should continue to report through the United Nations Secretariat to the President of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty.

14. The upcoming Review Conference should also establish a standing committee to monitor the implementation of the aforementioned resolution on the Middle East as well as the agreements achieved at the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty in this regard and to report to the States parties to the Treaty.